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23 April 1948

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From: USCICC Subcommittee on Intelligence and Security.
To: USCICC.
Via: CJO.

Subject: Amendment to the Communications Act of 1934; ID84.

Reference: Secretary, USCIB, memorandum of 9 April 1948 to the Chairman, USCICC Subcommittee on I. and S.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of version of ID84 as in Bureau of the Budget on 21 April 1948.
(B) Copy of revised version of ID84 under consideration by the Secretary of Defense as of 21 April 1948.
(C) Copy of third possible version of ID84 suggested by CIA on 21 April 1948.

1. FACTS.

a. The reference informs the Subcommittee that USCICC requires it to consider the present status of ID84 and to recommend steps considered necessary to secure its passage (with special attention to the provision of the bill as now drafted whereby USCIB members would be authorized to engage in "wire-tapping").

b. The Subcommittee has been informed that

- (1) ID84 in its original form (enclosure (A)) is still in the hands of the Bureau of the Budget,
- (2) a revised version embodying the two changes recently proposed by the Navy (enclosure (B)) is in the hands of the Secretary of Defense (special legal consultant, Mr. Larkin),
- (3) the Army has expressed to the Secretary of Defense its concurrence in the revised version and has recommended all possible action to insure its prompt passage,

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- (4) CIA has expressed to the Secretary of Defense its concurrence in the bill (but not specifically in one version or another),
- (5) Mr. Larkin intends to call (in the near future) a conference of legislative representatives of Army, Navy, Air Force, and CIA to discuss the bill and to decide firmly on a best version and on means to obtain its passage.

2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. At the meeting of the Subcommittee which considered this problem the CIA member presented a third version of the bill which, if enacted, would have the same result (as far as the COMINT agencies are concerned) as the other two versions, but which embodies a new approach (enclosure (C)). The Subcommittee considers that this version and approach have merit and deserve consideration, but that, since all three versions would have the effects desired by the USCIB member agencies, there being no outstanding merit from that standpoint of one over the others, any choice among them should be based on which, if any, is the most likely to be passed by the Congress. Such a choice, then, is the duty of those in the Departments concerned who obviously have the most experience in obtaining the passage by the Congress of desired legislation; that is, the legislative representatives of the Departments. Accordingly the Subcommittee considers that the first step to be taken is the making of this choice or the selection of some other alternative version, and that this should be done in the conference of legislative representatives which Mr. Larkin intends to call. The Subcommittee proposes that its Chairman attend this conference to represent the viewpoint of the USCIB member agencies, and the Chairman is accordingly arranging to do so.

b. Since any further "steps ---- to secure passage of this legislation" must await and are contingent upon the first and most important step (the selection of the version which will be the most acceptable to the Congress) the Subcommittee makes

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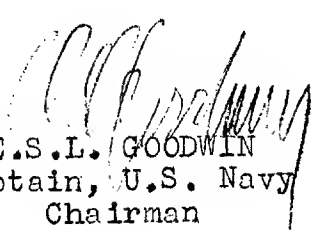
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no recommendations now. The Subcommittee assumes the continuing tasks of following the progress of ID84 and of making such recommendations toward securing its passage as may from time to time seem appropriate.

3. COORDINATION.

The only coordination involved is that indicated in the last sentence of paragraph 2a. above.


E.S.L. GOODWIN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Chairman

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